

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner  
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
November 15, 2016



**Left:** CT Agricultural Experiment Station technical staff making nanoscale nutrient amendments to field plots to suppress plant disease and enhance crop yield. **Right:** A cross-section of a Cascade hop showing the yellow lupulin that contains the plant's flavorful oils imparted to beer in the brewing process.

## **PRODUCING HEALTHIER CROPS, BEES AND HOPS IS FOCUS OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY 2016 SPECIALTY CROP GRANTS**

Efforts to raise disease-resistant strawberries and pumpkins, to breed pest-resistant bees and increase pollinator habitat, and to find varieties of hops suitable for growing in Connecticut are among the projects being funded by the latest round of an annual federal grant program administered by the state Department of Agriculture.

The approximately \$240,000 in grants from the 2016 USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program will fund four projects being undertaken by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), which is a separate agency from the state Dept. of Agriculture except for administrative purposes.

Funded projects must produce measurable outcomes for the public and/or the specialty crop industry, which the USDA defines as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, maple syrup, honey, horticulture, and nursery crops.

"The work being done at CAES on these projects and so many others is an important resource that helps enhance the growth of Connecticut agriculture while responding to new challenges facing farmers today," Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said.

Dr. James LaMondia, Chief Scientist at CAES, said the research funding will help the Experiment Station address timely issues important to growers and the public.

"Each of these projects will help Connecticut growers produce valuable specialty crops and enhance the viability of agriculture in our state," he said.

The following are summaries of the projects submitted in

the grant applications:

### **Nano-Fertilizer to Suppress Crop Disease and Promote Yield**

Dr. Jason White, State Chemist, vice director and  
Chief Analytical Chemist  
CT Agricultural Experiment Station  
\$60,000

CAES scientists will evaluate the impact of nanoscale copper and zinc micronutrients on disease suppression, yield, and nutrient content of strawberries and pumpkins.

The impact of crop disease on production is significant, reducing yield by 20% and resulting in billions of dollars in annual losses nationally.

A changing climate and increasing population will further challenge agricultural productivity.

Novel approaches to disease suppression are needed and nanotechnology has shown tremendous promise for increasing food security.

Current nanotechnology efforts have focused on nano-enabled conventional agrichemicals, nanosensors, and waste treatment strategies.

However, little is known about the effects of nanoparticle (NP) nutrients on disease suppression, crop growth, and nutritional content.

Data from our group has shown that NP copper is not only absorbed more effectively through plant shoots but also movement through the plant is increased, resulting in

**(Continued on Page 3)**

**LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
<b>SLAUGHTER COWS</b> Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	54.00	58.50
boners 80-85% lean	54.00	58.50
lean 88-90% lean	48.00	52.50
<b>SLAUGHTER STEERS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4 few	98.00	100.00
Choice 2-3	92.00	93.00
Sel 1-2	89.00	91.00
<b>SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	89.00	93.50
Ch 2-3	84.50	85.00
Sel 1-2	82.00	83.00
<b>SLAUGHTER HEIFERS</b>		
Hi Ch/Prime 2-3	101.00	106.00
Ch 2-3	96.00	101.00
<b>CALVES - Graded bull</b>		
No 1 94-128 lbs	80.00	120.00
<b>FEEDER STEERS - Med &amp; Lge 1</b>		
300-400 lbs	125.00	129.00
400-500 lbs	122.00	132.00
500-600 lbs	117.00	130.00
600-700 lbs	107.00	128.00
700-800 lbs	114.00	126.00
800-900 lbs	109.00	118.00
900-1000 lbs	108.00	115.00
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled &amp; Shorn</b>		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
60-70 lbs	205.00	235.00
70-80 lbs	205.00	216.00
80-90 lbs	177.00	192.00
90-110 lbs	160.00	182.00
110-130 lbs	147.00	165.00
130-150 lbs	145.00	148.00
<b>SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3</b>		
120-160 lbs	80.00	100.00
160-200 lbs	70.00	90.00
200-300 lbs	70.00	82.00
<b>SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1</b>		
40-60 lbs	135.00	155.00
60-80 lbs	150.00	175.00
<b>SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1</b>		
80-130 lbs	150.00	180.00
130-180 lbs	165.00	200.00
<b>SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1</b>		
80-100 lbs	195.00	205.00
100-150 lbs	215.00	245.00
150-250 lbs	290.00	290.00

**DAIRY REPLACEMENT COWS**

New Holland, PA. Nov. 9, 2016. Sold by the head.

**FRESH COWS:**

SUPREME	1825.00	1950.00
APPROVED	1550.00	1775.00
MEDIUM	1050.00	1475.00

**SPRINGING COWS (7-9 MONTHS):**

SUPREME	1700.00	1750.00
APPROVED	1250.00	1450.00
MEDIUM	900.00	1175.00

**CULL COWS**

	450.00	875.00
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**SPRINGING HEIFERS (7-9 MONTHS)**

SUPREME	1575.00	1700.00
APPROVED	1375.00	1600.00
MEDIUM	1150.00	1400.00

**BRED HEIFERS (4-6 MONTHS):**

SUPREME	1550.00	1625.00
APPROVED	1300.00	1575.00
MEDIUM	975.00	1375.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

**NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LB CTN	14.00	14.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4 OZ	16.00	16.50
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEETS, RED, LOOSE, 25 LBS	6.00	6.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GALLON	19.00	21.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	21.00	22.50
EGGPLANT, CHINESE, 30 LBS	24.00	25.00
EGGPLANT, THAI, 20 LBS	30.00	35.00
PARSNIPS, 20 LB, LOOSE	20.00	21.00
PARSNIPS, 18-1 LB	21.00	22.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, SMALL, 1-1/9	15.00	16.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, M-L, 36" BIN	200.00	220.00
SQUASH, ACORN, BTNT, 1-1/9	12.00	16.00
SQUASH, ACORN, BUTNT, /LB	85	1.25
SQUASH, BUTTNT, 1-1/9	13.00	14.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, 1-1/9	16.00	18.00
TOM, GHSE, 25 LBS LOOSE	15.00	15.00
TOM, GHSE, CHRRYONVINE, 5 LB	10.00	14.00
TOMATO, GHSE, CHRY, 8-10 OZ	20.00	24.00
TOMATO, GHSE HEIRLM, 10 LB	23.00	25.00
TURNIP, WHITE CAPE, 1-1/9	32.00	32.00

**WHOLESALE NORTHEAST POTATOES**

\$/per unit.

ROUND WHITE, #1, CHEF, 50 LB	11.00	12.00
RUSSET, #1, 60	13.00	14.00
RUSSET, #1, 70	13.00	14.00
RUSSET, #1, 80	13.00	14.50
RUSSET, #1, 10 OZ MIN, 50 LBS	11.00	12.00

**NORTH & SOUTHEAST ORNAMENTALS****WHOLESALE**

\$/Per unit.

ILEX, NE, 10 BUNCHES	10.00	10.00
SNAPDRAGON, NE, 10/BUNCH	12.50	14.00
SUNFLOWER, NJ, PA, 5/BUNCH	5.00	6.50
SUNFLOWER, MINI, PA, 10/BN	7.50	7.50

**NEAST WHOLESALE ORGANIC EGG & POULTRY**

\$/Per unit.

<b>BROWN EGGS</b>		
XL, DOZEN	2.61	3.60
XL, 1/2 DOZEN	1.80	1.95
LRG, DOZEN	2.30	3.50
LRG, 1/2 DOZEN	1.71	1.90
<b>YOUNG CHICKEN</b>		
WHOLE FRYER	1.71	3.32
BNLS BREAST	5.69	10.58
B/IN BREAST	3.60	6.16
WHOLE LEGS	1.88	4.76
THIGHS	1.95	3.92
<b>WHOLE YOUNG TURKEY</b>		
FRESH	2.54	3.84
FROZEN	2.26	3.46

**NORTHEAST RETAIL ORGANIC EGG & POULTRY**

\$/Per unit.

<b>BROWN EGGS</b>		
XL, DOZEN	3.86	3.86
LRG, DOZEN	4.11	4.11
<b>YOUNG CHICKEN</b>		
WHOLE FRYER	2.57	2.57
BNLS SKNLS BREAST	6.88	6.88
WHOLE LEGS	4.49	4.49
TENDERS	7.45	7.45
THIGHS	3.28	3.28

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT - November 14, 2016

	LOW	HIGH
<b>Bob Calves:</b>		
45-60 lbs.	35.00	38.00
61-75 lbs.	40.00	45.00
76-90 lbs.	46.00	49.00
91-105 lbs.	50.00	53.00
106 lbs. & up	55.00	59.00
Farm Calves	64.00	67.00
Starter Calves	36.00	40.00
Veal Calves	82.50	160.00
Open Heifers	85.00	150.00
Beef Heifers	2@	103.00
Feeder Steers	70.00	150.00
Beef Steers	73.00	83.00
Stock Bulls	125.00	170.00
Beef Bulls	72.00	77.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	1@	.01/lb
Sows	1@	.20/lb
Butcher Hogs	1@	.45/lb
Feeder Pigs each	1@	30.00
Sheep each	n/a	n/a
Lambs each	80.00	340.00
Goats each	105.00	280.00
Kid Goats each	45.00	75.00
Canners	up to	54.50
Cutters	55.00	58.50
Utility Grade Cows	59.00	61.50
Rabbits each	5.00	23.00
Chickens each	4.00	22.50
Ducks each	5.00	15.00

**NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA**

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.68	.86
LARGE	.62	.76
MEDIUM	.48	.61

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.11	1.27
LARGE	1.03	1.15
MEDIUM	.64	.74
SMALL	.46	.53

**NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION**

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	39.00	45.00
	300-400 lbs	35.00	37.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	30.00	37.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	23.00	27.00
	500-600 lbs	25.50	29.00
	600-750 lbs	23.50	26.50
Boars	200-400 lbs	12.00	17.00
	400-650 lbs	6.00	8.00

**USDA- NORTHEAST****TURKEY AND CHICKEN RETAIL**

Retail supermarket prices to consumers. \$/lb.

<b>TURKEY:</b>		
HEN, FRESH	1.79	1.99
HEN, FROZEN	.39	1.99
TOM, FRESH	1.79	1.99
TOM, FROZEN	.39	1.99
BREAST, BONE IN, FRESH	3.29	3.29
BREAST, BONE IN, FROZEN	1.39	2.99
<b>CHICKEN:</b>		
BAGGED FRYER	.88	1.49
BAGGED ROASTER	.99	1.49

**(Continued from Page 1)**

greater disease resistance and yield. The proposed work will assess the potential for commercially available copper and zinc nanoscale nutrient applications to enhance growth and suppress fungal/nematode pathogens in strawberries and pumpkins.

The work will be conducted at three CAES experimental farms and will involve different amendment strategies. Analytical techniques will be used to track nutrient movement and form.

The knowledge gained from this project could lead to novel nutrient delivery systems that significantly increase crop yield while suppressing disease.

CAES scientists will work directly with the Department of Agriculture and will support growers through a range of outreach practices, including one-on-one assistance, scientific publications, an updated website, and demonstrations/presentations of results at annual field days.

**Breeding Honey Bees Resistant to Varroa Mite**

Dr. Richard Cowles, Assistant Scientist  
CT Agricultural Experiment Station  
\$59,254

Beekeepers have great difficulty keeping their colonies alive, which increases their operating costs and consequently the costs of pollination services and honey.

Parasitic varroa mites are the key to poor honey bee health, due to direct feeding of these mites on bees and their ability to transmit viruses within colonies.

Bees with hygienic traits are resistant to varroa infestations because worker bees detect infested bee pupae and remove them from the hive.

Existing queen breeding programs to enhance this trait can lead to excessive inbreeding, as the hygienic trait is recessive, and each bee breeding program originated from

**FOR SALE**

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or [www.bludon.com](http://www.bludon.com)

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

99-R. Lynn Blackmer, Nationwide Farm Master Certified Agent, Woodstock, CT. Farm, commercial, life insurance, and more. Cell: 860-377-8947 to see how Nationwide compares.

100-R. For Sale: Christmas greens, wreaths and roping. Many sizes and varieties. Excellent for fund raisers. 203-457-1344.

populations with limited genetic variability. Increased within-hive genetic variability benefits colonies by improving their ability to respond to stressors.

CAES will assemble multiple populations of hygienic bees of diverse origins, including feral populations surviving in our state forests, to produce queens that will support populations of hygienic and genetically diverse workers within each colony.

Queens produced through our breeding program will be evaluated relative to existing hygienic bee strains to quantify their hygienic behavior, resistance to varroa mite infestation, colony health, gentle behavior, honey yields, and overwintering survival.

The best hybrids will be used to replace queens kept by beekeepers throughout Connecticut, to thereby improve profitability, sustainability, and competitiveness of our apicultural industry.

At the end of this project, the queen rearing and breeding program will be turned over to a new local, non-profit queen rearing association.

**Planting Habitat for Specialty Crop Pollinators**

Dr. Kimberly Stoner, Associate Scientist  
CT Agricultural Experiment Station  
\$59,997

CAES will assist growers and beekeepers to establish and maintain pollinator habitat, will evaluate pollinator habitat for bloom throughout the growing season, and will also measure the abundance of specialty crop pollinators visiting the habitat.

The methods to accomplish these goals will be:

- A series of three conferences with specific hands-on information for farmers, beekeepers and agency

**(Continued on page 4)**

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110-R. Used 12' pressure treated fence posts. Quantity pricing. Call or text 860-559-3009 or 860-888-3798.

115-R. Screened or unscreened leaf compost in quantities from 5 to 5,000 cubic yards. Also screened topsoil and topsoil and topsoil/compost mix (50/50). We will custom blend on orders over 50 yards. Growers be sure to ask about discount for large volume users. We also carry a full line of landscape mulch, Premium and colored. Supreme Forest Products, Southington, CT 06489. 860-485-1636.

116-R. Two Hereford-Murray Grey heifer crosses. 7 months old-good size-open. \$700.00 each. 860-859-2412.

**WANTED**

105-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/softwood, especially sugar maple/white oak. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

111-R. Bulldozing in E. CT. Need water call Don Kemp. Will dig farm ponds any size. Lots of experience. 860-546-9500.

**(Continued from Page 3)**

personnel about methods, materials, and costs of successfully establishing diverse season-long foraging habitat for pollinators. Field days on both organic and IPM farms with pollinator habitat on different scales in different parts of the state

Surveys of conference and field day participants to evaluate and improve the information available and to identify pollinator plantings. A network of resources and people who can supply site-specific technical advice, for efficient creation and management of pollinator habitat

Measurement of the acres of pollinator habitat planted by participants, and evaluation of the plant and pollinator diversity in the resulting habitat.

**Hops as a Specialty Crop**

Dr. James LaMondia, Chief Scientist  
CT Agricultural Experiment Station  
\$63,000

CAES will evaluate growth, yield, disease resistance, and quality characteristics for a large number of hop varieties to enable growers to plant suitable varieties for successful commercial production in Connecticut.

There has been wide interest in the production of locally grown hops among brewers, current farmers growing different crops and potential new growers, and the results of this project will be important in determining the future of hop production as a new competitive specialty crop in Connecticut.

Hop cultivation has just started in Connecticut and our previous project has proven the general feasibility. This project request will evaluate up to 45 additional varieties with the primary effort and focus on 5 to 6 widely used cultivars.

The varieties will be compared over 2 years which is sufficient time to determine plant vigor, yield, cone quality, and disease and insect pest pressure.

CAES scientists will continue to support growers in economically and ecologically sustainable hop agriculture through a multi-faceted information system.

This will include one-on-one assistance, scientific publications including fact sheets, a mailing list, and demonstrations and presentations of results in hop research meetings and hands-on field days at the CAES Valley Laboratory in Windsor, and its Lockwood Farm in Hamden.

**BLACK FRIDAY PRE-SALE AT CT GROWN STORE**

The Connecticut Grown Store is kicking off the holiday season with a Black Friday Pre-Sale, plus promotions continuing through December. A wide selection of merchandise is available for all ages from infant to adult, including hats, bibs, shirts, coffee mugs and more.

Shop online at [www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com](http://www.ConnecticutGrownStore.com).

Producers interested in making a bulk purchase at wholesale pricing may call 860-713-2503 or email [Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov).

**Black Friday Pre-Sale**

- November 14–20: CT Grown Long Sleeve Polo Shirts: \$22
  - November 21-24: CT Grown Sweatshirt: \$15
- Black Friday Sale, November 25-November 27**
- Save \$25 off \$100 Purchase
  - Save \$15 off \$50 Purchase
  - Save \$5 off \$25 Purchase

**PRODUCE SAFETY TRAINING OFFERED NEXT MONTH BY NEFU**

New England Farmers Union (NEFU) is collaborating with Cornell University to hold a Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course on Dec. 2 at the Hartford/Windsor Marriott Airport Hotel in Windsor.

The course will be led by Elizabeth A. Bihn, Ph.D, Director, Department of Food Science at Cornell, as part of NEFU's seventh annual convention, *Harvesting Solutions*, held at the same location on Dec. 3.

The course will provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and co-management information, Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule requirements, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan.

Participants will be eligible to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) verifying completion of the course.

The public is invited to attend both the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course and New England Farmers Union Annual Convention.

For information and to register, please visit:

<http://www.newenglandfarmersunion.org/whats-new/2016-nefu-convention/2016-registration-menu/>

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.  
Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2017.

**VOL. XCVI, No. 44, Nov. 15, 2016**

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
[www.CTGrown.gov](http://www.CTGrown.gov) 860-713-2500**

Commissioner <a href="mailto:steven.reviczky@ct.gov">steven.reviczky@ct.gov</a>	Steven K. Reviczky 860-713-2501
Agricultural Development <a href="mailto:linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov">linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov</a>	Linda Piotrowicz 860-713-2503
Regional Market <a href="mailto:linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov">linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov</a>	Linda Piotrowicz 860-566-3699
Farmland Preservation <a href="mailto:cam.weimar@ct.gov">cam.weimar@ct.gov</a>	Cameron Weimar, Ph.D 860-713-2511
Regulation & Inspection <a href="mailto:bruce.sherman@ct.gov">bruce.sherman@ct.gov</a>	Dr. Bruce Sherman 860-713-2504
State Veterinarian <a href="mailto:mary.lis@ct.gov">mary.lis@ct.gov</a>	Dr. Mary J. Lis 860-713-2505
Aquaculture <a href="mailto:david.carey@ct.gov">david.carey@ct.gov</a>	David Carey 203-874-2855
Agricultural Report Editor <a href="mailto:steve.jensen@ct.gov">steve.jensen@ct.gov</a>	Steve Jensen 860-713-2519